



TO: Indiana Charter School Board Members  
FROM: James Betley, Executive Director  
DATE: February 23, 2016  
SUBJECT: Request for Opening Date Delay for Indiana Charter Network, Inc. ("ICN")

**Staff Recommendation: Conditionally approve ICN's request to delay opening for one year.**

**Background:**

In May 2015, the Indiana Charter School Board ("ICSB") approved two charters for ICN to be managed by Charter Schools USA ("CSUSA"), allowing one school to open in 2016-17, and the other school to open after positive performance of the first school on academic, financial, and compliance indicators. On December 21, 2015, ICSB staff received a "Request for Extension of Time" from ICN's attorney formally requesting "a two year extension of the charter so that ICN can open the school in the 2016-17 school year or beyond." The letter was accompanied by a resolution of the ICN Board stating that the reason for the delay was that the anticipated funding increase for charter schools during the 2015 legislative session "was not as impactful as originally anticipated."

**Recommendation:**

- Conditionally approve the request for a one year extension for the initial school to open during the 2017-18 school year. The conditions are as follows:
  - ICN must demonstrate the ability to meet all Prior-Action Checklist items for the school in a timely fashion as determined by ICSB Staff.
  - ICN must have a facility identified no later than February 1, 2017.

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

It has always been the past practice of the ICSB to give a one year extension to an organizer when appropriate circumstances dictate. However, we do not believe it is best practice to give multiple year or open-ended extensions. In order to be consistent with past practice and best practice, we recommend approving a one year extension with the above conditions.